Contingency plan to tackle drought

350. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn up any contingency plan to tackle the devastating drought, witnessed in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the efforts made so far, to help the States affected by drought;

(d) whether Government thought of any permanent policy to tackle recurring drought year after year;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (f) Droughts are location specific phenomena requiring local level contingency plans. Most States have such plans to deal with the situation.

MSP for paddy and other crops

351. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Punjab and other State Governments had demanded early announcement of Minimum Support Price for paddy and other crops and other concessions for farmers in drought hit States;

(b) if so, the demands made by different State Governments; and

(c) Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State Governments of Punjab and other States had asked for early announcement of Minimum Support Prices (M.S.Ps.) for Kharif Crops including Paddy, fixation of higher M.S.P. of paddy (Rs.570-850), Coarse Cereals (Rs.530-878), Pulses (Rs.1450-2261), Groundnut-in-shell (Rs.1460-1983), Cotton (Rs.1875-3400), payment of bonus, etc.

(c) The Government announced the Minimum Support Prices of various Kharif Crops for 2002-03 Season taking into account the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (C.A.C.P.), the views of State Government and Central Ministries as well as such other relevant factors considered important for fixation of Minimum Support Prices. Keeping in view the failure of monsoon in various parts of the country during June-August, 2002, the Government announced Special Drought Relief Prices for Kharif Crops of 2002-03 Season. The Special Drought Relief Prices will be over and above M.S.Ps. already announced for Kharif Crops of 2002-03 Season. A statement showing Minimum Support Prices and the Special Drought Relief Prices fixed by the Government for Kharif Crops of 2002-03 Season is enclosed.

Statement

Minimum Support Price and Special Drought Relief Price for Kharif crops of 2002-03 *season*

Crop/Commodity	Variety	Minimum Support Price	Special Drought Relief Price
1	2	3	4
Paddy	Common	530	20
	Grade 'A'	560	20
Jowar		485	5
Bajra		485	10
Maize		485	5
Ragi		485	5
Tur (Arhar)		1320	5
Moong		1330	5

1	2	3	4
Urad		1330	5
Groundnut-in-shell		1355	20
Soybean	Yellow	885	10
	Black	795	10
Sunflowerseed		1195	15
Sesamum		1450	5
Nigerseed		1120	0
Cotton (Kapas)	F-414/H-777/J-34 H-4	1675	20
		1875	20

MSP policy of agricultural products

352. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Minimum Support Price policy is in force in the country;

(b) if so, the details of Minimum Support Prices for all agricultural products and foodgrains earmarked during the last three years;

(c) the measures taken by Government to protect the interests of the farmers in case the prices fall below Minimum Support Price level; and

(d) the details of the crops of which prices have fallen below Minimum Support Price during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement showing the Minimum Support Prices fixed for major agricultural commodities during the last three years is enclosed.

(c) The measures taken by the Government to protect the interests of the farmers on this score include fixation of Minimum Support Prices of major agricultural commodities, procurement of agricultural commodities, using instruments of trade to reduce imports and encourage exports, etc.